

REMARKS

This Amendment is intended to place the subject application, which is presently on appeal, into condition for allowance.

Claims 31, 35-43, 47 and 58 stand allowed.

Objected to claims 28, 30, 32 and 50 have been amended into independent form and include limitations of their former base and any intervening claims. Rejected claims 26 and 29 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 28. Rejected claims 45, 46, 48 and 49 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 50.

Rejected claims 24, 27, 34, 44 and 59 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 26, 28-32, 35-43, 45-50 and 58 are now pending and in condition for allowance.

Additionally, submitted herewith are four references which Applicant does not regard as being material to patentability of the instant application. Applicant brings these references to the Examiner's attention merely because they were cited in related applications. If the Examiner believes the attached references are relevant, the Examiner is respectfully requested to cite the references on form PTO-892.


CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7500.

Respectfully submitted,

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